



1. (Previously amended) A method of checking the meaning of a word in an electronic document, which electronic document has not been published to an intended recipient of such electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

retrieving said word to be checked from [said] the unpublished electronic document;
selecting a set of filter words in one or more electronic dictionaries to be used for checking said word, said set of filter words being based in part on considering an identity of [an] the intended recipient of [said] the unpublished electronic document, said set of filter words being adjustable on a recipient by recipient basis and/or on a document by document basis;
determining whether said word has a particular meaning that is (1) designated as offensive in said set of filter words; and/or (2) is designated as potentially inappropriate in said set of filter words for communication to said intended recipient;

wherein the unpublished electronic document is checked so as to control initial distribution of such unpublished electronic document to [said] any intended recipients.

14. (Previously amended) A method of permitting an author of an electronic document to simultaneously check both the spelling and meaning of words in such document comprising the steps of:

- [a] retrieving a word to be spell checked and word checked from said document; and
- [b] determining whether said word has been spelled correctly; and
- [c] when said word has been spelled incorrectly, presenting a first list of alternative words to said user as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a first replacement word for said word; and
- [d] determining whether the meaning of said word or replacement word has a designation as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in a text document, said designation being modifiable by the author; and
- [e] when said word has been designated as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, presenting a second list of alternative words to said author as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a second replacement word for said word.

24. (Twice Amended) A method of word checking an electronic document [generated by a word processing program under control of] authored by a user of [said] a word processing program, said method comprising the steps of:
- storing word-checking status information for said document, including a table identifying offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words used in said document;
 - monitoring interaction between said [user] author and said word processing program to identify idle editing periods;
 - locating offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words in said document during the idle editing periods, and updating the word checking status information in response thereto as needed; and
 - modifying a word filter electronic dictionary containing said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words based on input from the [user] author, so that the [user] author of the electronic document can control which words in said document are to be identified in said table.
29. (Amended) A method of automatically word checking an electronic document as it is generated by [a user] an author and before such electronic document is published, comprising the steps of:
- allowing the [user] author of the electronic document to specify one or more word filter dictionaries to be used for filtering text content of the document, where at least one of said one or more word filter dictionaries is selected based on an intended audience for the electronic document; and
 - monitoring data input by the [user] author during a data input period that is intended to be included as a word in said document; and
 - determining whether the word is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in said document by comparing the word against words contained in said one or more word filter dictionaries; and
 - when the word is determined to be offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, alerting the [user] author; and
 - wherein a result of said word checking is communicated to the [user] author while the [user] author is still entering said text content of the document so that the electronic document is checked before it is disseminated to said intended recipient and so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said result is communicated before the [user] author has completed data input during a subsequent data input period intended for a subsequent word to be included in said document.
31. (Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein when the word is determined to be potentially inappropriate the [user] author is precluded from inputting additional words in said document until corrective action has been taken for such word.
32. (Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein a check of the spelling of such word is also performed, and wherein the result of this spelling check is communicated to the [user] author while said [user] author is still entering said text content of the document.
40. (Amended) An electronic system for permitting a user to control which words are allowed in an electronic document before the electronic document is published, said system including:
- a system memory for storing a word checking software module;
 - a processing device for executing the word checking software module;
 - an electronic dictionary for identifying a set of filter words to be filtered from the electronic documents, said set of filter words being adjustable on a document by document basis and including both offensive words and/or potentially inappropriate words, and which potentially inappropriate words are determined by considering an identity of an audience intended to receive the electronic document; and
 - wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the following operations:
 - (i) retrieving words to be checked from the document;
 - (ii) determining whether said words from the document include any from said set of filter words
 - (iii) controlling initial distribution of such electronic document on a document by document basis and/or a recipient by recipient basis based on steps (i) and (ii).

72. (Amended) An electronic dictionary embodied in computer readable form for use in controlling distribution of unpublished electronic documents created by a word processing program, said dictionary including:

a set of words represented in computer readable form;

a first electronic dictionary incorporated as part of the electronic dictionary and being used for defining a first filter identifying any word in said set of words that is offensive; and

a second electronic dictionary separate from said first electronic dictionary and also incorporated as part of the electronic dictionary, said second electronic dictionary being customized for defining a second filter for identifying any word in said set of words that is potentially inappropriate for use in communications with a particular group of persons;

wherein said first electronic dictionary and said second electronic dictionary are adapted for controlling distribution of unpublished electronic documents on a document by document basis and/or on a recipient by recipient basis.

76. (Amended) A method of checking the meaning of a word in an electronic document comprising the steps of:

retrieving said word to be checked from the document;

determining with a first electronic language filter whether said word has a particular meaning that is likely to be offensive to [persons] intended recipients [to read] of such document; and

determining with a second electronic language filter whether said word is potentially inappropriate for use in communications to said [persons] intended recipients, based in part on considering an identity of said [persons] intended recipients;

wherein said first electronic language filter and said second electronic language filter can be selected on a document by document basis and/or on a recipient by recipient basis.

93. (Amended) A method of checking content of an unpublished electronic document comprising the steps of:

- (a) specifying a language filter to be used for inspecting words of the electronic document to determine if it contains potentially inappropriate content, said language filter being based in part on an identity of [an] at one or more intended recipients of the electronic document;

wherein said language filter can be selected on a recipient by recipient basis, and/or on a document by document basis; and

- (b) specifying a language sensitivity threshold level to be used when evaluating the electronic document; and
- (c) providing an output indicating when said language sensitivity threshold is exceeded based on words in the electronic document so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document to said one or more intended recipients.

97. (Amended) A system for checking content of an unpublished electronic document comprising:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device; and

a language filter, which language filters is associated with a set of words that are potentially inappropriate for use with a corresponding recipient of the electronic document; and

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

- (i) Specifying said language filter for checking the electronic document;
wherein said language filter can be specified on a document by document basis and/or a recipient by recipient basis;
- (ii) specifying a language sensitivity threshold level to be used when evaluating the electronic document;
- (iii) providing an output indicating when said language sensitivity threshold is exceeded based on words in the electronic document so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document to said intended recipient.

101. (Amended) A method of controlling distribution of an electronic document to prevent dissemination of embarrassing and/or harmful content in such electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) identifying offensive words that should not be included in an electronic document to be distributed to an intended third party recipient; and
- b) identifying potentially inappropriate words that should not be included in an electronic document to be distributed to said intended third party recipient, said potentially inappropriate words being based in part on a consideration of an identity of said intended third party recipient; and
- c) inspecting the document electronically before it is distributed to said intended third party recipient to see if it contains any of said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words, so that a corrective action can be taken to eliminate said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words and/or to prevent distribution of the document wherein said offensive words and said potentially inappropriate words can be specified on a document by document basis and/or on a recipient by recipient basis.

115.(Amended) A method of checking content of an electronic document which has not been published comprising the steps of:

- (a) configuring a language filter to be used for inspecting content of the electronic document to determine if it contains potentially inappropriate text, said language filter being configured based in part on an identity of intended recipients of the electronic document; and
- (b) detecting whether said electronic document includes words specified within said language filter; and
- (c) generating an output indicating the presence of any words detected during step (b) so that the electronic document is checked before it is disseminated to said intended recipients and so as to control initial publication of such electronic document; wherein said language filter can be adjusted during step (a) as needed according to said identity of said intended recipients so that initial publication of such electronic document can be controlled on a document by document basis and/or a recipient by recipient basis.

118. (Amended) A method of checking content of an electronic document that has not been published to an intended recipient comprising the steps of:

- (a) retrieving a word from the electronic document;
- (b) inspecting said word with a language filter selected for the electronic document, said language filter being adjustable on a document by document basis and consisting of either or both of a first language filter and/or a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons;

wherein a decision to initially distribute the electronic document, including to an intended recipient within said first group of persons or said second group of persons, is based on a result of step (b) and is done on a recipient by recipient basis.

123. (Amended) A system for checking content of an electronic document, which electronic document has not been published, the system including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;

a configurable language filter, which configurable language filter contains words to be used for checking the content of the electronic document, and which configurable language filter can be adjusted on a recipient by recipient basis and/or on document by document basis;

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

- (i) configuring said configurable language filter based in part on an identity of an intended recipient of the electronic document;
- (ii) using said configurable language filter to check words used in the document;
- (iii) generating an alert when said configurable language filter is triggered;

wherein initial dissemination of the electronic document can be controlled on a document by document basis based on whether the content is appropriate for an intended audience of such electronic document.

126. (Amended) A system for checking content of an electronic document including:
- a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;
 - a language filter consisting of a first language filter and a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons;
- wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:
- (i) selecting either or both of said first and second language filters for checking words in the document based in part on [an identity of] whether an intended recipient of the electronic document is identified with either or both of said first group of persons or said second group of persons;
 - (ii) using either or both of said first and/or second language filters to check words used in the document;
 - (iii) generating an indicator when either or both of said first and/or second language filters is triggered;
- wherein dissemination of the electronic document can be controlled on a recipient by recipient basis and/or a document by document basis based on whether words contained therein are appropriate for an intended [audience] recipient.

129. (Amended) A method of checking content of electronic documents comprising the steps of:
- (a) retrieving a word from a first electronic document; and
 - (b) inspecting said word with a language filter selected for the first electronic document, said language filter consisting of either or both of a first language filter and/or a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons; and
 - (c) identifying whether said word falls within said first language filter and/or said second language filter; and
 - (d) repeating steps (a) through (c) for said first electronic document until all words in said first electronic document are inspected; and
 - (e) repeating steps (a) through (d) for a second electronic document, wherein a language filter selected for the second electronic document can be varied from that used for said first electronic document so that a language filter can be selected on a document by document basis and/or a group by group basis.

132. (Amended) A system for checking content of electronic documents including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;

a language filter comprised of a first language filter and a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons;

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

- (i) selecting either or both of said first and second language filters as said language filter for checking content of electronic documents on a document by document basis and/or on a group by group basis such that said first language filter can be used when said electronic document is a first type of document to be disseminated to said first group of persons, while said second language filter can be used when said electronic document is a second type of document to be disseminated to said second group of persons;
- (ii) using said language filter to check words used in said electronic documents;
- (iii) generating an alert when said language filter is triggered;

wherein dissemination of said electronic documents, including both said first type of documents and said second type of documents, can be controlled based on whether the content therein is appropriate for an intended audience, including said first and second groups of persons.

135. (Amended) A method of inspecting and verifying content of electronic documents comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing one or more electronic documents whose contents are to be checked; and
- (b) providing a set of language filters, each of said language filters being associated with a set of words that are inappropriate for use with a corresponding recipient group for said one or more electronic documents; and
- (c) selecting one or more of said language filters based in part on an intended recipient group identified for each of said one or more document, such that a language filter can be specified on a document by document basis and/or a group by group basis; and
- (d) checking a content of said one or more electronic documents using any language filters selected for said one or more electronic documents respectively during step (c); and
- (e) identifying whether any of said one or more electronic documents contain words that trigger said selected language filters.

138. (Amended) A system for inspecting and verifying content of electronic documents including:

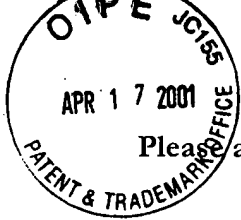
a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device; and

a set of language filters, each of said language filters being associated with a set of words that are inappropriate for use with a corresponding recipient group for one or more electronic documents; and

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

- (i) selecting one or more of said language filters based in part on an intended recipient group identified for each of said one or more documents, such that a language filter can be specified on a document by document basis and/or a group by group basis; and
- (ii) checking a content of said one or more electronic documents using any language filters selected for said one or more electronic documents respectively;
- (iii) identifying whether any of said one or more electronic documents contain words that trigger said selected language filters.

wherein said system can process electronic documents individually or as a batch.



Please add new claims 141 – 204 as set forth below:

141. (New) A method of checking the meaning of a word in an electronic document, which electronic document has not been published, the method comprising the steps of:
- designating filter words by changing a value of a filter status field for words in one or more electronic dictionaries;
 - retrieving said word to be checked from said document;
 - selecting a set of filter words from said one or more electronic dictionaries to be used for checking said word, said set of filter words being based in part on considering an identity of an intended recipient of said electronic document;
 - determining whether said word has a particular meaning that is (1) designated as offensive in said set of filter words; and/or (2) is designated as potentially inappropriate in said set of filter words for communication to said intended recipient;
 - wherein the electronic document is checked so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document to said intended recipient.
142. (New) The method of claim 141, wherein the filter status field for each of the words can have one of N values, where $N > 2$, and where N designates whether each of said words is offensive or potentially inappropriate.
143. (New) The method of claim 141, wherein said set of filter words can be selected without input from an author of the document.
144. (New) The method of claim 141, wherein an identification of said set of filter words can take place at or about the time said one or more electronic dictionaries are first generated.
145. (New) The method of claim 141, further including a step of generating an alert indicating that such word is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate.
146. (New) The method of claim 143, further including a step of permitting a user to remove said word from said set of filter words.
147. (New) The method of claim 141, further including a step of specifying a threshold value which the filter status field must exceed in order for said word to be identified as belonging to said set of filter words.

148. (New) A method of checking the meaning of a word in an electronic document, which electronic document has not been published the method comprising the steps of:
- providing one or more electronic dictionaries, including a first dictionary file to be used for electronic documents sent to a first audience, and a second dictionary file to be used for documents sent to a second audience;
 - retrieving the word to be checked from the document, wherein the word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in said first dictionary file and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in said second dictionary file;
 - selecting a set of filter words from said one or more electronic dictionaries to be used for checking said word, said set of filter words being based in part on considering an identity of an intended recipient of said electronic document;
 - determining whether said word has a particular meaning that is (1) designated as offensive in said set of filter words; and/or (2) is designated as potentially inappropriate for communication to said intended recipient in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings in said set of filter words;
 - wherein the electronic document is checked so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document to said intended recipient.
149. (New) The method of claim 148, wherein said first context and said second context are based on word meanings of two different languages.
150. (New) The method of claim 148, wherein said first context and said second context are based on gender distinctions.
151. (New) The method of claim 148, wherein said first context and said second context are based on cultural characteristics of two different groups.

152. (New) A method of permitting an author of an electronic document to simultaneously check both the spelling and meaning of words in such document comprising the steps of:
- (a) retrieving a word to be spell checked and word checked from said document; and
 - (b) determining whether said word has been spelled correctly; and
 - (c) when said word has been spelled incorrectly, presenting a first list of alternative words to said user as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a first replacement word for said word; and
 - (d) designating those words that have a meaning that is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate by changing a value of a status field for such words in an electronic dictionary, wherein said designation is modifiable by the author;
 - (e) determining whether the meaning of said word or replacement word has a designation as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in a text document; and
 - (f) when said word has been designated as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, presenting a second list of alternative words to said author as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a second replacement word for said word.
153. (New) The method of claim 152, further including a step (g): permitting said author to select said word, the first replacement word, or the second replacement word.
154. (New) The method of claim 152, further including a step (g): repeating steps [e] and [f] as necessary so that a word is selected that is not designated as potentially inappropriate, or said author is permitted to select a word by manual override.
155. (New) The method of claim 152, wherein those words that have an offensive and/or a potentially inappropriate meaning can be identified initially without input from a user of such electronic dictionary.
156. (New) The method of claim 152, wherein an identification of potentially inappropriate words can take place at or about the time the electronic dictionary is first generated.
157. (New) The method of claim 152, further including a step of generating an alert indicating that such word is potentially inappropriate.

158. (New) A method of permitting an author of an electronic document to simultaneously check both the spelling and meaning of words in such document comprising the steps of:
- (a) retrieving a word to be spell checked and word checked from said document; and
 - (b) determining whether said word has been spelled correctly; and
 - (c) when said word has been spelled incorrectly, presenting a first list of alternative words to said user as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a first replacement word for said word; and
 - (d) determining whether the meaning of said word or replacement word has a designation as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in a text document, said designation being modifiable by the author; and
 - (e) when said word has been designated as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, presenting a second list of alternative words to said author as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a second replacement word for said word;
 - (f) permitting an author to change the value of a status flag for such word to change said designation.

159. (New) A method of permitting an author of an electronic document to simultaneously check both the spelling and meaning of words in such document comprising the steps of:
- (a) retrieving a word to be spell checked and word checked from said document, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file for a first audience, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file for a second audience; and
 - (b) determining whether said word has been spelled correctly; and
 - (c) when said word has been spelled incorrectly, presenting a first list of alternative words to said user as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a first replacement word for said word; and
 - (d) determining whether the meaning of said word or replacement word has a designation as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings, said designation being modifiable by the author; and
 - (e) when said word has been designated as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, presenting a second list of alternative words to said author as replacements for said word, and permitting said author to select a second replacement word for said word.
160. (New) A method of word checking an electronic document generated by a word processing program under control of a user of said program, said method comprising the steps of:
- (a) storing word-checking status information for said document, including a table identifying offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words used in said document;
 - (b) monitoring interaction between said user and said word processing program to identify idle editing periods;
 - (c) locating offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words in said document during the idle editing periods, and updating the word checking status information in response thereto as needed; and
 - (d) modifying a word filter electronic dictionary containing said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words based on input from the user, so that the user can control which words in said document are to be identified in said table; and
 - (e) permitting a user to specify a rating threshold which must be exceeded in order for said word to be identified as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate.

161. (New) A method of automatically word checking an electronic document as it is generated by a user and before such electronic document is published, comprising the steps of:
- (a) allowing the user to specify one or more word filter dictionaries to be used for filtering text content of the document, where at least one of said one or more word filter dictionaries is selected based on an intended audience for the electronic document; and
 - (b) permitting the user to specify a rating threshold which must be exceeded in order for said text content to be identified as potentially inappropriate;
 - (c) monitoring data input by the user during a data input period that is intended to be included as a word in said document; and
 - (d) determining whether the word is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in said document by comparing the word against words contained in said one or more word filter dictionaries; and
 - (e) when the word is determined to be offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, alerting the user; and
- wherein a result of said word checking is communicated to the user while the user is still entering said text content of the document so that the electronic document is checked before it is disseminated to said intended recipient and so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document.
162. (New) The method of claim 161, wherein said result is communicated before the user has completed data input during a subsequent data input period intended for a subsequent word to be included in said document.
163. (New) The method of claim 161, wherein when the word is determined to be potentially inappropriate the user is precluded from inputting additional words in said document until corrective action has been taken for such word.
164. (New) The method of claim 161, wherein a check of the spelling of such word is also performed, and wherein the result of this spelling check is communicated to the user while said user is still entering said text content of the document.
165. (New) The method of claim 161, further including a step of generating a list of substitute words in the event such word is mis-spelled, and if a substitute word is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether said substitute word has a meaning that is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in a text document by comparing said substitute word against words contained in said one or more word filter dictionaries.

166. (New) A method of automatically word checking an electronic document as it is generated by a user and before such electronic document is published, comprising the steps of:
- (a) allowing the user to specify one or more word filter dictionaries to be used for filtering text content of the document, where at least one of said one or more word filter dictionaries is selected based on an intended audience for the electronic document; and
 - (b) monitoring data input by the user during a data input period that is intended to be included as a word in said document, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file from said one or more word filter dictionaries, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file from said one or more word filter dictionaries; and
 - (c) determining whether the word is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in said document by comparing the word against words contained in said one or more word filter dictionaries, including said first dictionary file and said second dictionary file such that said word is analyzed in both the first and second contexts by examining said first and second ratings; and
 - (d) when the word is determined to be offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, alerting the user; and
- wherein a result of said word checking is communicated to the user while the user is still entering said text content of the document so that the electronic document is checked before it is disseminated to said intended recipient and so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document.

167. (New) An electronic system for permitting a user to control which words are allowed in an electronic document before the electronic document is published, said system including:
- a system memory for storing a word checking software module;
 - a processing device for executing the word checking software module;
 - an electronic dictionary for identifying a set of filter words to be filtered from the electronic documents, said set of filter words including both offensive words and/or potentially inappropriate words, and which potentially inappropriate words are determined by considering an identity of an audience intended to receive the electronic document; and
 - wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the following operations:
 - (i) retrieving words to be checked from the document; and
 - (ii) designating said set of filter words by changing a value of a status field for such words in said electronic dictionary; and
 - (iii) determining whether said words from the document include any from said set of filter words; and
 - (iv) controlling initial distribution of such electronic document based on steps (i) and (ii).
168. (New) The system of claim 167, wherein the status field for each of the words in said electronic dictionary can have one of N values, where $N > 2$.
169. (New) The system of claim 167, wherein said set of filter words can be identified without input from said user.
170. (New) The system of claim 167, wherein an identification of said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words can take place at or about the time the electronic dictionary is first generated.
171. (New) The system of claim 167, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of generating an alert indicating that a word in the document is in said set of filter words.

172. (New) The system of claim 167, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of permitting said user to change the value of a status flag for words in said electronic dictionary.
173. (New) The system of claim 167, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of verifying the spelling of words.
174. (New) The system of claim 173, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of generating a list of substitute words in the event any word is mis-spelled, and if a one of the substitute words is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether the substituted word includes any word from said set of filter words.
175. (New) The system of claim 167, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of checking a set of documents, and generating a list of words in such documents that are in said set of filter words.
176. (New) The system of claim 167, wherein said words are checked substantially immediate in time after they are input into said document by a user.
177. (New) The system of claim 167, wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the additional operation of specifying a threshold value which the status field must exceed in order for words to be identified as part of said set of filter words.

178. (New) An electronic system for permitting a user to control which words are allowed in an electronic document before the electronic document is published, said system including:
- a system memory for storing a word checking software module;
 - a processing device for executing the word checking software module;
 - an electronic dictionary for identifying a set of filter words to be filtered from the electronic documents, said set of filter words including both offensive words and/or potentially inappropriate words, and which potentially inappropriate words are determined by considering an identity of an audience intended to receive the electronic document, and such that said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file forming part of said electronic dictionary, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file forming part of said electronic dictionary; and
- wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the following operations:
- (i) retrieving words to be checked from the document; and
 - (ii) determining whether said words from the document include any from said set of filter words, including by examining said first and second ratings to determine whether said word has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts; and
 - (iii) controlling initial distribution of such electronic document based on steps (i) and (ii).

179. (New) A method of checking the meaning of a word in an electronic document comprising the steps of:
- (a) retrieving a word to be checked from the document; and
 - (b) determining with a first electronic language filter whether said word has a particular meaning that is likely to be offensive to persons intended to read such document; and
 - (c) determining with a second electronic language filter whether said word is potentially inappropriate for use in communications to said persons, based in part on considering an identity of said persons; and
 - (d) configuring said first and second language filters by changing a value of one or more status fields for such words in an electronic dictionary.
180. (New) The method of claim 179, wherein said status fields for each of the words can have one of N values, where $N > 2$.
181. (New) The method of claim 179, further including a step of generating an alert indicating that a word is within said first and/or second electronic language filter.
182. (New) The method of claim 179, further including a step of verifying the spelling of such word.
183. (New) The method of claim 182, further including a step of generating a list of substitute words in the event such word is mis-spelled, and if a one of the substitute words is selected in lieu of such word, determining whether the substituted word has a meaning that is likely to be offensive.
184. (New) The method of claim 179, wherein said word is checked by said first and second language filters substantially immediate in time after it is input into said document by a user.
185. (New) The method of claim 179, wherein the document is an e-mail message, an electronic spreadsheet, an electronic database, or an electronic word processing document.

186. (New) A method of checking content of an unpublished electronic document comprising the steps of:
- (a) specifying a language filter to be used for inspecting words of the electronic document to determine if it contains potentially inappropriate content, said language filter being based in part on an identity of an intended recipient of the electronic document; and
 - (b) specifying a language sensitivity threshold level to be used when evaluating the electronic document, such that a rating value for each word in the electronic document is compared against said language sensitivity threshold level to determine if such word should be identified as potentially inappropriate; and
 - (c) providing an output indicating when said language sensitivity threshold is exceeded based on words in the electronic document so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document to said intended recipient.
187. (New) The method of claim 186, wherein said rating value and said language sensitivity threshold level are adjustable.
188. (New) The method of claim 186, wherein said rating value is specified as a status field value in an electronic dictionary used as part of said language filter.

189. (New) A system for checking content of an unpublished electronic document comprising:
a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device; and
a language filter, which language filters is associated with a set of words that are potentially inappropriate for use with a corresponding recipient of the electronic document; and
wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:
- (i) specifying said language filter for checking the electronic document;
 - (ii) specifying a language sensitivity threshold level to be used when evaluating the electronic document;
 - (iii) providing an output indicating when said language sensitivity threshold is exceeded based on words in the electronic document so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document to said intended recipient;
- wherein a rating value for each word in the electronic document is compared against said language sensitivity threshold level to determine if such word should be identified as potentially inappropriate
190. (New) The system of claim 189, wherein said rating value and said language sensitivity threshold level are adjustable.
191. (New) The system of claim 190, wherein said rating value is specified as a status field value in an electronic dictionary used as part of said language filter.

192. (New) A method of controlling distribution of an electronic document to prevent dissemination of embarrassing and/or harmful content in such electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) identifying offensive words that should not be included in an electronic document to be distributed to an intended third party recipient; and
- b) identifying potentially inappropriate words that should not be included in an electronic document to be distributed to said intended third party recipient, said potentially inappropriate words being based in part on a consideration of an identity of said intended third party recipient; and
- c) inspecting the document electronically before it is distributed to said intended third party recipient to see if it contains any of said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words, so that a corrective action can be taken to eliminate said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words and/or to prevent distribution of the document.

wherein a status field rating for said offensive words and said potentially inappropriate words are set up by an author of the electronic document as part of an electronic language filter.

193. (New) The method of claim 192, further including a step: (d) replacing any offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words in the document as part of said corrective action.

194. (New) The method of claim 192, wherein an author of the electronic document also sets a threshold value which must be exceeded by said status field rating in order for a word to be considered as one of said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words.

195. (New) A method of checking content of an electronic document which has not been published comprising the steps of:
- (a) configuring a language filter to be used for inspecting content of the electronic document to determine if it contains potentially inappropriate text, said language filter being configured based in part on an identity of intended recipients of the electronic document; and
 - (b) detecting whether said electronic document includes words specified within said language filter; and
 - (c) generating an output indicating the presence of any words detected during step (b) so that the electronic document is checked before it is disseminated to said intended recipients and so as to control initial publication of such electronic document;
- wherein said language filter can be adjusted during step (a) as needed according to said identity of said intended recipients, is configured by setting status field values for words within either or both of said first and/or second language filters.
196. (New) The method of claim 195 further including a step of setting up said language filter by specifying a first language filter intended for a first audience for the electronic document, and a second language filter intended for a second audience for the electronic document, each of said first and second language filters containing words that are potentially inappropriate for use with said first and second audiences respectively.

197. (New) A system for checking content of an electronic document, which electronic document has not been published, the system including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;

a configurable language filter, which language filter contains words to be used for checking the content of the electronic document;

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

- (i) configuring said configurable language filter based in part on an identity of an intended recipient of the electronic document;

wherein said configurable language filter includes a first language filter and a second language filter as part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file;

- (ii) using said configurable language filter to check words used in the document;

- (iii) generating an alert when said configurable language filter is triggered;

wherein initial dissemination of the electronic document can be controlled based on whether the content is appropriate for an intended audience of such electronic document.

198. (New) The system of claim 197, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to cause harm and/or embarrassment by their inclusion in the document.

199. (New) A system for checking content of an electronic document including:
- a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;
 - a language filter consisting of a first language filter and a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons;
 - wherein said first language filter and second language filter are part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file;
 - wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:
 - (i) selecting either or both of said first and second language filters for checking words in the document based in part on an identity of an intended recipient of the electronic document;
 - (ii) using either or both of said first and/or second language filters to check words used in the document;
 - (iii) generating an indicator when either or both of said first and/or second language filters is triggered;
 - wherein dissemination of the electronic document can be controlled based on whether words contained therein are appropriate for an intended audience.
200. (New) The system of claim 199, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to cause harm and/or embarrassment by their inclusion in the document.

201. (New) A method of checking content of electronic documents comprising the steps of:
- (a) retrieving a word from a first electronic document; and
 - (b) inspecting said word with a language filter selected for the first electronic document, said language filter consisting of either or both of a first language filter and/or a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons; and
 - (c) identifying whether said word falls within said first language filter and/or said second language filter; and
 - (d) repeating steps (a) through (c) for said first electronic document until all words in said first electronic document are inspected; and
 - (e) repeating steps (a) through (d) for a second electronic document, wherein a language filter selected for the second electronic document can be varied from that used for said first electronic document;
- wherein said first language filter and second language filter are part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file.
202. (New) The method of claim 201, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to cause harm and/or embarrassment by their inclusion in the document.

203. (New) A system for checking content of electronic documents including:
- a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;
 - a language filter comprised of a first language filter and a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons;
- wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:
- (i) selecting either or both of said first and second language filters as said language filter for checking content of electronic documents such that said first language filter can be used when said electronic document is a first type of document to be disseminated to said first group of persons, while said second language filter can be used when said electronic document is a second type of document to be disseminated to said second group of persons;
 - (ii) using said language filter to check words used in said electronic documents;
 - (iii) generating an alert when said language filter is triggered;
- wherein dissemination of said electronic documents, including both said first type of documents and said second type of documents, can be controlled based on whether the content therein is appropriate for an intended audience, including said first and second groups of persons;
- and further wherein said first language filter and second language filter are part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file.
204. (New) The system of claim 203, wherein said first language filter contains words that are offensive, and said second language filter contains words that are likely to cause harm and/or embarrassment by their inclusion in the document.